



CHINA

GREAT BRITAIN.
MARCH, 1866.

VOL. XXII. No. 1105.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 19TH APRIL, 1866.

PRICE, \$15 PER ANNUM.

SHANGHAI.

Owners	Tea lbs.	Silk lbs.
P. & O. S.N. Steam Co	933,800	
D. Sassoon Sons and Co	687,600	
L. Marquis	340,400	
Callao Early	1,126,800	
Jardine, Matheson & Co	864,600	
Jardine, Matheson & Co	845,900	
Anglo-Siam Co	1,039,900	
P. Francis Gama and Co		297
Captain Lewis	950,400	
Jardine, Matheson & Co	1,181,400	
David Sassoon, Sons & Co	999,600	
Jardine, Matheson & Co	1,133,800	
Dent and Co	746,800	
	812,400	20
	1,095,900	
	605,900	
	868,500	
	1,018,300	
	872,900	
	678,900	
	952,100	
	866,500	
	957,500	
	319,500	
	730,900	
	812,400	
	550,000	
	837,300	
	909,600	
	1,031,400	272
	1,130,300	
	1,067,100	
	827,700	
	773,900	
	869,200	
	299,400	
	1,334,200	
	775,100	
	449,200	
	883,400	
	923,900	
	1,273,300	
	1,156,900	
	860,400	
	944,400	
	959,500	
	845,500	
	465,400	
	1,166,800	
	1,456,200	
	1,165,800	
	429,900	
	1,243,700	
	895,100	
	861,600	
	40,706,900	1,167

JAPAN.

Owners	Tea lbs.	Silk lbs.
Crown	900,000	
any	193,800	
ER.	312,500	
ley,	89,300	
Y.	1,812,200	67

TOTAL.

Tea lbs.	Silk lbs.
66, in 125 vessels, 110,967,100	59,841
65, in 168 vessels, 113,882,300	36,812
crease,	3,816,200
crease,	23,028

Fifteen Spanish Dollars; Six Months, payable in advance. Subscriptions will be given a month before the expiry of the

Dollar; each additional Line, Twenty "Notice of Firms" will be continued, directed to the Weekly Paper, Eight at Twelve Dollars.

ard Street. Station, Brown & Co. H. Fogg & Co. Manila, C. KARUTU D. 2 WYNDHAM STREET, HONGKONG.

It is hereby notified that, until further orders, the *Evening Mail, China Mail* and *Overland China Mail* will be the official mediums of all Notifications proceeding from Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Canton.

D. B. ROBERTSON,
Consul.

British Consulate,
Canton, April 16, 1866.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

Date	Vessel, AT	Flag & Rte	Tons	Captain	From	DEPARTURES	CARGO	CONSIGNEES OR AGENTS
Apr. 13	H. Kong.	Spain	450	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 8	Spain	Spanish Consul
13	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General	P. Laprak
13	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General	P. Laprak
13	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General	P. Laprak
13	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General	P. Laprak
13	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General	P. Laprak
13	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General	P. Laprak
13	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General	P. Laprak
13	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General	P. Laprak
13	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General	P. Laprak

PASSENGERS.—Per *Andromeda*, Mr. Noctiff.—Per *Dumarton*, Messrs Hudson, Linton, and 4 second class.—Per *Suwanonda*, Capt. and Mrs. Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, and child, Messrs. Brannon, Harnden, Archer, Coolidge, Driver and Grinker.—Per *Garland*, Miss Rading.—Per *Eugene Adie*, Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, and Mr. Turner.—Per *Enterprise*, Mr. Lambert.—Per *Robert Love*, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, and Mr. Peden.—Per *Enterprise*, Captains Sullivan and Williams.—Per *Rangoon*, for Hongkong, Admiral Kers, Captains Croome, Messinger, Mr. and Mrs. Hawke, Mr. and Mrs. Lovock, and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Davur, Messrs A. Lay, S. Ho Hood, T. Wesley, A. Chert, J. M. Vickers, G. P. Fraser, W. Wild, Carricote, J. Lunham, J. L. de Silva, N. P. Mulgrew, P. Curran, C. C. Soerres.—For Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Golding, Mr. and Mrs. Mar shal, Messrs C. L. Bryant, C. Overbeck, Mills, Elias, R. Barkill.—Per *Asaf*, Messrs Pundie, Webster, and 50 Chinese.

DEPARTURES.

Date	Vessel, FROM	Flag & Rte	Tons	Captain	Destination	CARGO	DEPARTED BY
Apr. 14	H. Kong.	Spain	450	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 8	Spain
14	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General
14	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General
14	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General
14	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General
14	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General
14	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General
14	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General
14	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General
14	Andromeda	B. str.	558	Yuecos	Manila	Apr. 10	General

PASSENGERS.—Per *Behar*, for Southampton—Major Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Tyers, Mr. and Mrs. Pedder, Miss Browne, Messrs Barrie, Boxer, McGregor, Spain, Brown, T. Pitcher and Marton. For Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Messrs R. B. Parr, Talor, G. H. Pearce, Richards, Hudson and Miller. For Suez—Messrs Henderson, R. Moller, E. Hubener, Gribble, and G. Rippert. For Bombay—Messrs Sapoorjee, J. M. Magis, and R. S. Mogra. For Singapore—Major Costa, and Dr de Lavan.

THE CHINA MAIL.
PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 19TH APRIL, 1866.

MARRIAGES.

In the Second Presbyterian Church, Gatesburg, Ill., on the 1st of February, 1866, by Rev. Geo. Dunfield, Jr., assisted by Rev. Wm. S. Curtis, D.D., President of Knox College, Rev. Jesse Donnell, of the China Mission, of the American Board, to Miss Lucia, daughter of Philadelphia, Penna., U.S.A., on the 19th of February, 1866, Joseph J. Ray, of Hongkong, to Victoria, second daughter of Wm. H. Dickerson, of Philadelphia.

BIRTHS.

At Hongkong, on the 17th instant, the Wife of J. W. Torrey, of a Daughter.

At Hongkong, on the 17th April, the Wife of S. W. Baze, of a Son.

DEATHS.

On the 26th March, on board the P. & O. S.N. Co. S.S. *Stratford*, infant son of E. F. Hawes, of 11 M. Natal Yard, Hongkong, aged 7 months and 26 days.

FOR SALE.

THE ANGLO-CHINESE CALENDAR for 1866, published by A. SHORTER & Co. Price, \$1.

"China Mail" Office, Hongkong, February 26, 1866.

FOR SALE.

THE CHINA DIRECTORY for 1866, printed and published by Messrs A. Shorter & Co. Price, bound in paper cover, \$3; unbound in paper cover, \$2.

Hongkong, March 28, 1866.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

News from the North—Telegrams via Kalgan and Kiachta—Neuchwang—Poochow and the tea clippers—Colonial finances—Confiscation of the PRINCE ALBERT—Piracy again—Amateur theatricals—The Weather.

THERE has been nothing of importance lately from the North, with the exception of a report that a scheme of telegraphic communication with Europe via the Russian settlements is on foot; a Chinaman has contracted with an European agent—Mr Grant, for the conveyance of telegrams between Tientsin and Kalgan, and from the latter place, it is proposed to establish a system of couriers to Kiachta. The contract time for the dispatch of telegrams between Tientsin and Kalgan is forty-eight hours, a penalty being imposed in each case of delay.

From the number of vessels reported in the harbor of Neuchwang, a brisk trade seems to be anticipated, after the ice bound winter months of inaction at that port.

The tea season at Poochow is about to commence; the *Robert Love* has arrived from Singapore, and the *Fiery Cross* is hourly expected from Rangoon en route for Poochow and the *Taiting, Ariel, Far East* and other tea clippers are on the berth.

As regards local news, the principal topic of discussion in the Legislative Council, appears to be "ways and means," and the "last straw" which is to break the camel's back, according to our contemporary, is the "Military Contribution," which seems as great a bugbear here, as "Irish members" are in the House of Commons at home. On comparing notes, it really appears that although, to follow out comparisons, Mr. Gladstone can afford to chuckle over his estimated three millions of surplus, we are obliged to ponder over the heavy deficit which appears on the balance sheet of the Colonial Treasury. Things have been going on altogether wrong; incidental revenue has apparently been calculated as permanent, and the proceeds of government land sales which have heretofore formed the principal revenue, now that nearly all the crown lands are sold, can no longer keep "the mill going," and this being a free port and principally only a depot for goods of all kinds, the elasticity of the Customs revenue at home, can find no parallel here, either now or in any future years.

We hope great things for the mint, when in full working order; and the success of the undertaking, in a commercial point of view will we believe be soon apparent. This may stop the gap and make the colony solvent again; in the mean time economy and retrenchment is absolutely necessary, and some steps should be taken to send a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies endorsed by the whole colony, protesting against the levying of the obnoxious contribution to the army estimates; at any rate until the mint begins to "make money" in two senses of the word. This petition should be laid before the House of Commons, and the "sense of the House" being taken on the subject, common sense must win the day and demonstrate the injustice and oppression attached to this compulsory payment of £20,000 per annum.

The *Prince Albert*, the steamer which was seized some short time ago, by a Chinese customs cruiser, as being in a non-treaty port, has been adjudged confiscated by a mixed Court at Canton composed of H. B. M. Consul and some officials of the Chinese and foreign Customs. Although a hard case for Mr. Quok Acheong the owner of the vessel, there can be no complaint made of the fairness of the decision as regards the unbiased views of the members of the Court. The decision comes in this case will probably lead to some steps being taken towards moving for the opening of the port of Kiang-show, which by the treaty of Tientsin is one of the ports which the Chinese Government are bound to open; heretofore the trading of foreign vessels at the small ports on the west Coast has been tacitly allowed by the Chinese authorities, and this seizure of the *Prince Albert* though undoubtedly a legal as well as very knowing and profitable act seems to be somewhat "smart" on their part.

The clan Piratical seem to have again commissioned their fleet, for we see by an account in the *Porensis Filipino*, that a schooner has been attacked; further particulars are given in our other columns.

The British barque *Cesar*, which arrived yesterday was also attacked by piratical junks, off the Asses Bars, but as she offered a vigorous resistance, and made pretty good practice with her six-pounders the junks, which had run alongside, thought that if they fought and ran away, they would live to fight another day, so "made tracks" accordingly. No casualties among the crew, have as yet been reported. We understand that His Excellency the Governor is collecting statistics of all cases of piracy which have taken place in the vicinity of Hongkong, and of all such cases brought before the Criminal Courts of the Colony.

This has apparently been done with a view of justifying himself with the Home Government, for any strong measures which he may propose and authorize for the suppression of this scourge of the China seas which is a crying reproach to civilization and English laws, from the apparent incapability of the latter to punishing wrong and violence.

Another subscription amateur performance took place on Tuesday evening at the Garrison Theatre; the two pieces performed were put on the stage and acted in a manner decidedly beyond the average of amateur performances, and of the previous representations this season. This is to be

attributed to the very efficient aid which the military received from their naval comrades; for the navy as represented here, furnished some capital actors for the occasion, and the *Princess Royal* having a good "team" of "reefers," the female parts were really very well taken. It is very gratifying to see such cordiality between the two branches of the service, as was displayed on this occasion.

The warm weather after dodging us for a long time, we have at last very unwillingly caught apparently for a permanency; we have however managed to tide over the spring months, with a season of very genial and temperate weather, and it is to be hoped the augury may prove favourable as regards the summer now almost upon us.

LATEST NEWS FROM HOME.

(Per mail steamer Rangoon.)
ARRIVED NOON 19TH APRIL 1866.

The latest News from Europe is not of any very great interest. The Chief Parliamentary intelligence is that the reform bill was to be moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 12th March,—that the second reading was fixed for the 30th April and that the Ministry intend to stand or fall by the result. Lords Grosvenor and Stanley were to move and second the amendment to throw out the bill. Earl Russell does not resign as reported and the Jamaica bill has passed the commons.

Fenianism is still being put down by the strong arm of the law; several arrests are reported.

The following are the latest Commercial Telegrams:—

LONDON, March 20th.—The Specie shipped by the Southampton steamer to-day is as follows:—For Madras £43,351.

Fair Dhollerah 17½, market dull and inanimate, and rates in favor of buyers; 7 lb Shirts 15s; No 40 Mule Twist 2/3.

Money market depressed in consequence of the possibility of a war between Austria and Prussia. Consols 86½. Bank discount 7 per cent. Money in great demand, but supply limited.

LONDON, March 21st.—At the bidding for Council drafts on India the minimum rates have been fixed at 11/11 on Calcutta and Madras, at 2/1 on Bombay; Calcutta offers will receive 11 per cent and Bombay 37.

LONDON, March 23.—Stock 420,000. Sales. At Manchester little doing; Cloth and Yarn halfpenny down, Copper has fallen £5 per ton.

LONDON, March 24th.—Bank discount, 6 per cent. Demand for money quiet Bar Silver 5/1 per ounce.

LONDON, 29 March.—Cotton market depressed; large arrivals from America; stock nearly 600,000 bales.

FRANCE.

The "Memorial Diplomatique" asserts that the reply of Mr. Seward to M. Drouyn de Lhuys's despatch of the 9th January has been received, and that the former undertakes that the United States will remain neutral towards Mexico in view of the promised evacuation of that country by the French troops.

France, Russia, and Austria have agreed upon a conference in reference to the Principalities. The differences between Austria and Prussia are widening. The Austria commander in Holstein has sanctioned the convention of the Committee on the Budget, and declared for the Constitution of 1864.

AUSTRIA.

The Hungarian Diet has agreed to commission for arranging affairs between Austria and Hungary.

Austrian troops are to be sent into Mexico when the French troops are withdrawn.

ITALY.

The Italian are proposing to pay off their national debt by public subscription.

At the approaching Conference on the affairs of the Principalities, Italy will submit a plan for the settlement of Venetia.

PRUSSIA.

A large meeting was held at Cologne to receive the deputies who had returned from Berlin. Several speeches were delivered commending the Government.

SPAIN.

General Prim and all the other officers concerned in the late Rebellion have been condemned to be shot. Madrid is still in a state of siege.

HOLSTEIN.

A declaration has been signed by 40 members of the privileged orders of Holstein insisting on the right of self-government, in opposition to a recent petition signed by only 18 nobles.

AMERICA.

The President of the United States has vetoed the Freedmen's Bureau Bill, and the act has been approved by the Senate and the bulk of the people. He has also delivered a speech expressing determination to pursue his reconstruction policy.

The diplomatic circle at Washington has expressed much offence at a speech by Mr. Bancroft on foreign governments. The Austrian ambassador has protested officially, and Sir Frederick Bruce has refused to meet Mr. Bancroft at dinner. The Fenian

Congress in America, under Sweeney, has agreed to a plan for the invasion of Canada. The American government is prepared to prevent any illegal movement offensive to England.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Spanish commodore on the Pacific coast proposed an armistice, but the Chilean Government refused the conditions.

An indecisive battle has been fought between Brazil and Paraguay, both armies sustaining heavy losses.

Or the various routes which travellers to and from China, follow there are but two which are in common use viz: that usually and now-a-days incorrectly termed the "Overland Route" and the long journey by land via Peking, Siberia and St. Petersburg.

A third route, which during the summer months is quite as practicable and far more agreeable to those who dislike spending nineteen days in the Mongolian desert or who from constitutional or other causes find a long sea passage to be an extreme discomfort, is open to the public; but though it is described in one of our first class periodicals some months ago very few seem to have availed themselves of the advantages it presents. This is no doubt greatly owing to the fact that steam communication between Shanghai and the month of the Amoor is very uncertain; for it is to the route via Nicolaisk and Irkutsk that we invite the attention of our readers.

Supposing that the homeward bound traveller has reached Shanghai and is fortunate enough to meet a steamer bound for Nicolaisk a short run of from 5 to 7 days will see him safely landed at the latter port.

Steamers run constantly from this place to within four days ride of Irkutsk, occupying 25 days on the passage. There is a considerable difference between being at sea and gliding along the smooth surface of an inland river, and few would be found to object to so convenient and comfortable a mode of travelling as the latter generally proves to be.

There is, so far as we can learn, no great difficulty in obtaining transport overland from the point where navigation ceases to Irkutsk. Having reached this point 29 days by post will carry the traveller to Nijni Novgorod where the railway commences, and a very few days more will see him safely housed at his destination.

On the road from Irkutsk to Nijni Novgorod the first half will be found to be very agreeable travelling. In Western Siberia the roads are somewhat swampy during the summer months and the traveller's progress will necessarily be slower.

No actual discomfort need however be feared as the Russian posting arrangements are by no means bad. For those who can command official aid the advantages of this route are of course much greater than to the ordinary traveller, but a gentleman from whom we have received some information on the subject has assured us that all persons are likely to meet with civility and attention.

The route we have thus hastily sketched possesses however an interest of quite another kind and one which will at once commend it to the mercantile community of China. The Telegraph from St. Petersburg will, in about 3 or 4 months time, be completed to Nicolaisk a distance of some 30 miles of telegraphic wire being the only link now wanting to place the capitals of western Europe in connexion with the extreme confines of Eastern Asia. By this route, when completed, Shanghai will be placed within 9 or 10 days of London intelligence; a facility which will without doubt be availed of on the completion of the telegraphic line.

No part of China is at present within less than 19 days of England as to telegraphic intelligence, or rather was not until the completion of Mr. GRANT'S Courier scheme via Kiachta, of the successful working of which we have not yet heard. Even should Mr. GRANT'S efforts be successful the telegraph by the route we are noticing will prove a formidable competitor to the Peking and Kiachta line, while supposing the time of transmission by either route to be equal, the advantages of the Nicolaisk line in the superior safety afforded by telegrams being confided to the hands of members of civilized nations only, will go far to engage public opinion in its favour.

Space prevents our now dwelling more at length on this interesting subject.

EMIGRATION has for many years been held to be one of the most important questions affecting the prosperity and happiness of the

people of Great Britain, as well as her Colonies and possessions. Within the last fifty years the number of emigrants who have left the shores of Great Britain for other lands, has amounted to over five and a half millions of persons. From these figures it might be thought by some that the population of the British Empire had diminished in consequence, but such is not the case, although the loss by emigration has exceeded an average of one half per cent per annum of the total population. A large proportion of these five and a half millions have reached the United States of Northern America and the remainder have gone to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other colonies or possessions of the British Crown. The labours of British emigrants in the general countries of their adoption have resulted in the erection and consolidation of Government institutions in imitation of those at home, while a large and flourishing trade productive of immense mutual advantage has sprung up between Great Britain and her several colonies. Great Britain by long experience now knows that every emigrant who leaves her shores, is instrumental in the development of a new commerce, bearing, as it progresses, happiness and worldly prosperity to the industrious man, as well as adding further power and importance to the British Empire.

The advantages and blessings of emigration have tended also to alleviate the condition of the poor remaining in the mother country. Its great and undoubted benefits when properly carried out have rendered it expedient to place it under official regulations in all countries where from internal causes it has become frequent or necessary. China, is without question in a position at the present time to spare from her enormous and ever increasing population a large number of able-bodied labourers. It also happens that there are in various parts of the globe on about the same parallel of latitude as Southern China, countries possessing soils of a wonderfully productive nature, and climates possessing many advantages. To enumerate those countries it is only necessary to refer to the fruitful estates and plantations in Ceylon, Mauritius, Cuba and other West India Islands, British Guiana, Brazil, Peru, Buenos Ayres, Chili, Java, Borneo and the Sandwich Islands. In all these naturally productive and extensive tracts of country the Chinese labourer is preferred, and we account for this preference by the known fact of the Chinese being more willing, laborious, patient, expert and clean labourers than any others which have yet been tried.

To those unacquainted with the manner in which engaged or Bonded Chinese have hitherto left the shores of China for some of the above named countries, it might perhaps appear an easy matter to transport some few hundred thousand Chinese labourers with their families to their destination every year. We ourselves believe that the matter is one capable of easy arrangement, provided the good faith of those engaged to carry out the scheme can be depended upon. This however unfortunately is not always the case.

Under the system of Bonded or Engaged emigration which it is well known is pursued by certain agents in China, the engagement of the labourer is sold to a planter for a certain sum of money. In all cases this amount is so large that enormous sums have been made by many nearly all of those engaged in the trade. These enormous and disproportionate profits have caused many greedy and unscrupulous men, whose passion for gain originally gave rise to the evil of kidnapping, to resort to China for the purpose of procuring the necessary number of the bodies. We hear of cruelties being practised by some, until the asserted iniquities of the whole system, call loudly on the representatives of all foreign governments to suppress the trade at once, until some plan can be inaugurated which shall be approved by them and carried out under their authority. The new regulations fail utterly as we have before pointed out in affording proper protection to the labourer; and we have before us the warning conveyed by the mutinies and murders committed on board the various vessels whose reports have lately appeared in our columns. We do not propose to enter into the immediate cause of these disasters, though they must undoubtedly arise in part from the present faulty system of engagement. Our object is rather to enquire whether a plan could

be devised which in practice would overcome such difficulties and dangers; and at the same time render all emigration voluntary in fact, and free in result.

Let us assume that a large and wealthy Company of rich planters residing in one of the above named places (such for instance as the Compañia Marítima de Peru) to be desirous of obtaining Chinese labourers. The directors of this company are amongst the wealthiest in Lima, and could well afford to enter into the arrangements we propose. Supposing them to require say five hundred coolies for a vessel lying at Macao. Why should not the Government of that place compel the agents of such a company to enter into heavy bonds for the return of the coolies shipped within a specified time, the most perfect proof being required of any circumstances alleged to have happened to prevent this return taking place? The Government on the other hand obliging the agent to pay over annually a certain sum (to be deducted from the wages of the coolies) for the support of the relations left behind.

It is not to be supposed that such a plan could be brought into operation without the most perfect guarantee of both the government and the agent being entirely uninterested in a pecuniary point of view. Such a plan would moreover be a heavy tax on the company, but when we revert to the prices paid in Lima for the engagements of these same coolies which shew at the present time a profit of from 200 to 400 dollars a head such a consideration is seen to be but of small importance.

Other little difficulties would of course arise but they also sink into insignificance before the advantages the adoption of such a system would ensure. Under it a Chinese labourer would feel himself secure of good treatment, personally—would be satisfied by the government guarantee that his poor parents or family would be provided for—would feel that he could be helped to return to his native land at the end of his engagement or that if he wished he might remain to accumulate his savings. Under such a system all emigrants should be required to come forward voluntarily. The employment of the "crimp" would be discontinued, for after a very short trial of the new system we venture to think he would no longer be required. The agents would find instead of the seedy half starved specimens of humanity who now reach the barracks that they would have flocking to them fine, healthy young men. Sickiness on board ship would diminish, and instances of mutiny and its frightful atrocities would we hope and believe become rare indeed.

Not a single ship should be allowed to leave China with bonded emigrants, but under such conditions as we have advanced. The whole question however turns on the implicit good faith of the agents employed. This can only be secured by government officials being appointed whose emoluments should be derived from official sources, and not from the "head money" dependent on the number of coolies shipped. So long as nondescript individuals with no other guarantee for their honesty than their self interest, are allowed to act as agents on such matters in any part of the world so long will abuses continue, resulting in the inevitable emigration which have contributed so melancholy a page to the history of Asiatic Emigration.

In the table of vessels attacked by pirates in these seas since the 15th January, which we published a short time since, we omitted to insert the name of the Brigantine-schooner *San Fernando*. A long account of an attack made on her by a heavily armed junk on the 24th March, appears in the *Porvenir Filipino* of the 1st inst. The Pirates boarded her but were eventually repulsed with loss.

In addition to this vessel the name of another British ship is added to the list since the date of last publication. The British barque *Cesar* was chased by pirates off the "Asses Ears" as the *Cesar* showed fight however they gave over the pursuit, and the vessel reached Hongkong in safety.

The table in question which we repeat hereunder with the additions shews an average of six vessels per month or seventy two vessels per annum attacked by pirates, and our list is necessarily imperfect. No doubt the stringent measures which it is believed the new Governor will put in force will diminish this heavy number, but we fear that something more is wanting than the individual action of any official, however determined he may be to do all that lies in his power to check such proceedings.

Congresses and Commissions are the fashion now; so why not summon a "pirate" congress? We have an international Cholera congress—a cattle plague congress, and a great many other "congresses" which certainly do not effect much though they satisfy one's desire to know that matters are being talked over, and the statistics of various evils tabulated. A "pirate" congress might really have some practical effect, if the members composing it were to be properly backed up by the physical force of the nations they represented. But it would be necessary, that no half measures be proposed.

Once let the Chinese pirates understand that all western nations were united in their endeavours to suppress the rascals who now infest the China seas, and they would probably migrate to a safer neighbourhood than that of their usual cruising ground. By way of insuring promptness and vigour we

The following is a list of the Piracies reported in the columns of the Hongkong press between the undermentioned dates:—

RETURN OF PIRACIES.

From 15th January to 19th April 1866.

DATE.	SHIPS' NAMES.	NEAR WHERE ATTACKED.	REMARKS.
16 January,	Jeanne and Joseph,	Tamto,	2 of crew murdered, 1 wounded vessel looted.
21 "	Alberts Jurs,	Alma,	Pirates repulsed.
28 "	Meers Lane, Crawford & Co's Water boat,	Off the Mint, Lantau,	2 men missing.
2 Feb'y,	Nuevo Lepanto,	Lantau,	Pirates repulsed.
5 "	Chin Chiu, Hamb. Sch.,	Ly ee-moon passage.	Vessel captured, crew escaped.
11 "	Johanna, Sarah Maria, and Resolution.	Off S. E. Lema Islands.	3 men wounded, one man missing, Cargo untouched.
11 "	2 Chinese junk crew zing to pick up emigrants.	Lantau,	Reported by a pilot as seen engaged with pirates; result unknown.
1 March,	Danewicke, Dan brig,	Achow point, Ladone Islands,	Money and Opium carried off. Vessel plundered, no lives lost.
7 "	Conqueror, British ship,	Ladone Islands,	Vessel boarded, 1 of crew killed, 5 wounded, 6 pirates killed.
10 "	San Fernando,	Off Pooy,	Boarded by pirates who were eventually repulsed with some loss.
24 "	Mary Jane, British brig,	Lema Channel,	Captain and two of the crew missing, vessel plundered.
25 "	Comar, British Bark,	Asses Ears,	Pirates retreated when fired upon.

We have reason to believe that other cases have occurred of which no reports have reached Hongkong.

(FROM THE LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS.)

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS RELATING TO THE MORTALITY OF TROOPS AT HONGKONG.

THE correspondence and returns on this subject moved for in the House of Commons by Colonel North, have been printed in a parliamentary blue-book. With the view of accounting for the entire absence of suitable accommodation for the troops on their arrival, it has been repeatedly stated by officers of the garrison at Hongkong that they came unexpectedly. The utter futility of this excuse as regards the 2d battalion of the 9th Regiment is proved by the very first letter of the series, in which Major General Guy, writing from Hongkong in November, 1864, alludes to the reinforcements then on the way in the *Tamara*, and states that he expects her arrival about February, the very month in which she did arrive. Having landed the troops, the steamer *Tamara* was despatched to the Cape for the 2d battalion of the 9th Regiment, and Major General Guy must have known that in the ordinary course of events she would arrive about the end of May or early in June. And yet at the time of her arrival, not only Major General Guy, but the principal medical officer and two staff surgeons were taking their ease in Japan! No preparation whatever had been made for the troops, and they were landed at Kowloon during the worst period of a sickly season, in the worst part of an unhealthy settlement, and provided with the most unsuitable accommodation. No great amount of penetration is needed to discern the cause of the frightful mortality which followed. During the absence from his post of Dr Dick, the principal medical officer, his work was done and his responsibilities borne by Mr George Saunders, surgeon of the 9th Regiment; and this gentleman in his letters briefly attributes the excessive sickness to four causes:—First, the unsuitable nature of the barracks at Kowloon; secondly, to insufficient barracks and hospital accommodation; thirdly, to the hardships which duty exacted from the men; and fourthly, to intemperance and want of food.

All medical authorities who have had experience in Hongkong and Kowloon agree that the soil, composed as it is chiefly of disintegrated granite, emits most unwholesome exhalations when freshly turned over or disturbed; and that not only foreigners but natives constantly suffer from fevers and cholera when exposed to them. The huts at Kowloon were, it seems, in close proximity to a new road which was being excavated, and the inmates of course felt the full effects of these deadly miasmas. As regards the barracks and hospital accommodation, Mr Saunders in one case pointed out to the Commandant that 375 men were crowded together in a building which gave each man 272 cubic feet less space than the minimum required by the regulations, that cholera was already prevalent, and unless this state of things was remedied an enormous mortality must ensue; the result of this representation, being that seventy more men were put into the building! Mr SAUNDERS' application being meanwhile "referred to Dr D. C. R. in Japan." Over and over again Mr Saunders insisted that the men should be allowed six nights a week in bed, instead of only three or four—but the destroying spirit was remorselessly enforced, while the question was "left for the consideration of the Adjutant-General." Drink had doubtless its share in the work of death; but can we wonder if the men, harassed by excessive night-duty and unweaned for during the day, and enfeebled by disease, took to drink as a means of alleviating their misery? Clearly, it seems doubtful whether the whole force—men, women, and children—would not have been annihilated altogether without the care and exertions of Mr Saunders. Unhappily as this sickening tale of horror is, the credit of the service demands a thorough investigation into the details; and we observe with satisfaction that Colonel North has announced his intention of moving for a committee of inquiry into the subject. Perhaps this may elicit a reply which is at present wanting, to the question so pointedly asked by the Director General of the Medical Department:—How far the principal medical officers and two staff surgeons all in Japan at one time, when their presence was so urgently needed in Hongkong?

Most interest and curiosity has long been felt with respect to the regulations in force at Macao concerning the Coolie Trade centred at that port, and we rejoice in having been favoured with a translation of the entire body of Decrees and Orders upon that subject, which our readers will be able to compare with the tenor of the Convention recently concluded at Peking for the conduct of Emigration by British and French subjects, which we have also published in extenso. It will be seen that the Macao regulations are equally voluminous and minute; and the only wonder is that with so many

would recommend that naval officers of each nation interested be sent as representatives—those countries who do not possess a navy paying a share of the expenses incurred by those to which the men of war employed belong.

The Government a copy of regulations established in their depots.

13. Contracts entered into between Chinese emigrating to foreign countries and embarking at the Port of Macao and Emigration Agents, shall be registered before the Procurator in the same manner as is provided in respect to all contracts between Chinese and Christians. This registration shall be made in the presence of the parties interested and before two witnesses.

Section 1.—Contracts must be drawn up in Chinese, and in the language of the country to which the emigrant is destined.

Section 2.—The Contract must specify the name, sex, age and native place of the Colonist.

Section 3.—No Colonist will be permitted to engage himself unless he has reached the age of eighteen, or is accompanied by his father or mother.

Section 4.—The contract shall set forth the period for which the engagement is to last, as also the amount of wages, food, and clothing that the Colonist is to receive.

14. The Procurator shall, on the occasion of his visits to the depots of Colonists, ascertain with scrupulous care whether any of them are there against their will or under deception with respect to the destination of the vessel they are to embark upon. In case he shall meet with any individual who has been the subject of violence or fraud, he shall cause him at once to leave the depot and shall proceed against the Broker who has induced him to enter the contract.

15. The visit of the kind treated of in the preceding article shall always take place on the evening previous to embarkation, which shall not be accomplished without such visit, for which purpose the Agents shall give timely notice to the Procurator.

16. Chinese who have entered into contracts before the Procurator, having been fully informed of the place and service for which they are engaged, shall be under obligation to fulfil the same, or to compensate the Emigration Agents for the expenses to which they have been put, which they will be required to repay in case they repent of their engagement or for any other cause whatever wish not to proceed to their destination. The cost of their maintenance shall be repaid by them at the rate of 100 cash per diem.

17. The provisions of the foregoing article shall not empower the Emigration Agent to keep the Colonists imprisoned in the depot, but he will be authorized in taking measures to obtain the deposit of caution-money, or other guarantees that may appear suitable for securing the expenses they incur, but never in detaining the persons of individuals.

18. Emigration Agents shall be liable to a fine of from \$50 to \$300 for infringement of any of the preceding rules in so far as they are referred to therein.

CONCERNING THE VESSELS ON WHICH COLONISTS ARE SHIPPED.

19. No vessel shall leave Macao with Chinese Colonists unless she has first been inspected by the Captain of the Port.

20. The Captain of the Port shall ascertain whether the vessel is sea-worthy, and carries the requisite crew and equipment, and is sufficiently ventilated for the accommodation of passengers.

21. Every vessel leaving the Port of Macao with more than 20 Chinese passengers shall be subject to the provisions of the preceding articles.

22. No Chinese shall be received (on board) unless he presents a passport, or a default thereof the contract signed by the Procurator as provided in article XIII.

23. No merchant vessel leaving the Port of Macao with Chinese Colonists shall carry more than one passenger for every ton and a half, Portuguese measurement, including the crew of the vessel.

24. The Captain of the Port shall ascertain, before the embarkation of the passengers, that the vessel is supplied with water and provisions sufficient for the voyage, in conformity with Schedule A annexed to this enactment. The length of voyage shall be computed according to Schedule B.

25. No vessel shall proceed to sea with more than 20 passengers without carrying a doctor and a medicine-chest properly supplied.

26. The Captain of the vessel shall not be allowed to disembark the passengers unless he has obtained the permission of the Procurator to proceed for service, except in the cases specified in the Commercial Code.

27. The Captain of the Port will make inquiry, after the embarkation of the Colonists, whether any Chinese are on board against their will or subject to deception, and in case of meeting with such he will have them disembarked, reporting to the Government the circumstances of the case for further action as may seem fit. He will also ascertain whether any on board are under contract with proper contracts signed by the Procurator, and in such case will cause them to be re-landed.

28. No vessel shall leave the Port of Macao with Chinese Colonists without having obtained from the Captain of the Port a certificate drawn up according to Form C.

29. Any vessel infringing the provisions of the preceding article shall be subject to a fine from \$200 to \$1,000 according to the circumstances of the case.

30. Consignees of vessels transporting Chinese Colonists from the Port of Macao shall give bonds in the sum of \$1,000, to be annulled on presentation of a legal certificate of the arrival of the vessel at her destination, and of her having complied with the provisions of this Decree. This certificate must be presented within 18 months of the date of sailing, under penalty of forfeiture of the caution money.

31. All regulations contrary to this Decree are revoked. The department to which it pertains to take cognizance here and to carry its provisions into effect shall make themselves acquainted with and accomplish the same.

ISIDORO FRANCISCO GUIMARAES. MACAO, June 5th 1866.

Schedule A. Provisions to be carried by vessels sailing with Chinese Colonists from the Port of Macao.

For each person per diem.		
Rice,	1 lb.	
Salt Pork, or Pork and Fish, or Pork, or Beef and Fish,	1 lb.	
Salts Vegetables,	1 lb.	
Tea,	1 oz.	
Firewood,	20 lbs.	

Water at the rate of 12 canadas per week for each person.

MACAO, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, June 5th 1866.

Schedule B. Length of Voyage for which Provisions are to be calculated for sailing vessels conveying Chinese Colonists.

(This is the same as in the British "Chinese Passengers Act" of 1855.)

Schedule C. CAPTAINCY OF THE PORT OF MACAO.

MACAO, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 5th June 1866.

JOSE CARLOS BARROS, Acting Secretary of Government.

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